

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04477 031653Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 ACDA-12 /119 W
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P 031540Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1974
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4477

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, SF, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA, RHODESIAN ROUND UP

1. SUMMARY: THREE MEMBERS OF THE UANC EXECUTIVE HAVE
ASKED FOR MUZOREWA'S RESIGNATION. PRIME MINISTER SMITH
INDICATES THE ELECTIONS WILL PROCEED ON TIME WITH OR WITHOUT
A CEASEFIRE AND REVEREND SITHOLE HAS INVITED NKOMO TO
RETURN AND TAKE A PLACE ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. END
SUMMARY.

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS ON AUGUST 3 REPORTED THAT THREE MEMBERS
OF THE UANC EXECUTIVE, REV. AUTHOR KANODEREKA, REV. MAX
CHIGWIDA, AND DR. JOHN KUREWA HAVE ISSUED A STATEMENT ASKING
FOR MUZOREWA TO STEP ASIDE. THEY CALL FOR AN EMERGENCY
CONGRESS OF THE PARTY TO ELECT A NEW LEADER. THE STATEMENT
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SAYS "THERE IS A LACK OF LEADERSHIP, DIRECTION AND
ALLROUND STRATEGY IN THE PARTY". THE STATEMENT ALSO SAYS
FURTHER THAT THE PARTY IS LOSING SUPPORT AND THERE IS
CONFUSION AMONG PARTY MEMBERS. IT ADDS THAT MUZOREWA'S
RECENT TRIP ABROAD TO LOBBY FOR SANCTIONS REMOVAL
SPECIFICALLY SPARKED THE CRITICISM. UANC PRESS
SECRETARY, DAVID MUKOME, IS REPORTED TO HAVE DENIED THAT THE

PARTY WAS LOOSING SUPPORT AND CALLED THE STATEMENT
"UNFORTUNATE".

3. MEANWHILE, PRIME MINISTER SMITH WAS REPORTED TO HAVE
SAID IN PARLIAMENT ON AUGUST 2 IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM
BLACK MPS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD A FIRM COMMITMENT TO HOLD
THE ELECTIONS AS SCHEDULED. SMITH REPORTEDLY SAID HE WOULD LIKE
TO BRING ABOUT AN EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE BEFORE THE ELCTIONS BUT
"WE CAN AND WILL DO IT (HOLD THE ELECTIONS), EVEN UNDER
PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES".

4. PRESS ACCOUNS ALSO SAY THAT REV. SITHOLE IN A NEWS
CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 3, SAID THAT NKOMO WAS WELCOME TO
RETURN TO TAKE HIS PLACE ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND TO
NOMINATE THREE MINISTERS FOR THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL.
A LIKE OFFER, SITHOLE SAID, IS NOT BEING MADE TO MAGUBE
BECAUSE MAGUBE CLAIMS TO REPRESENT ZANU, WHICH IS ALREADY
INCLUDED IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN THE PRESENCE OF HIMSELF.
EDMONDSON

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